

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West



Elizabeth Cady Stanton – Women's Rights Activist

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in Johnstown, New York, on November 12, 1815, in a strict Presbyterian family. As the daughter of a lawyer, she showed an interest in “male dominant” roles at an early age. She graduated from the Emma Willard’s Troy Female Seminary in 1832 and then she became interested in the abolitionist, temperance, and women’s rights movement.

In 1840, Elizabeth married a reformer named Henry Stanton (omitting “obey” from the marriage vows). They traveled to London that year for the World’s Anti-Slavery Convention, where she joined other women in objecting to their exclusion from the assembly. Later, they returned to the United States where Elizabeth had seven children, while her husband studied and practiced law and eventually moved the family to Seneca Falls, New York.

With Lucretia Mott and other women, Elizabeth Cady Stanton held the Seneca Falls Convention in July 1848. Those who attended the meeting drew up the “Declaration of Sentiments” that proposed women be granted the right to vote. In 1851 she met Susan B. Anthony and worked on the weekly paper the “Revolution.” The two women formed the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) in 1869.

Elizabeth travelled throughout the United States giving lectures on women's rights and suffrage. She also caused controversy when she published two volumes of "The Woman's Bible." The first volume appeared in 1895 and the second in 1898. She argued that the Bible and organized religion played a role in denying women their full rights.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton died on October 26, 1902.

For more information on Elizabeth Cady Stanton, please visit:

<http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/elizabeth-cady-stanton>